

## Message Text

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21

ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 EB-07 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 DHA-02

/066 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W-GADIES:DFP

APPROVED BY . AF-JAMES J. BLAKE

L/AF-FKWILLIS (SUBS)

EB/IFD/OIA - TBRODERICK (SUBS)

AF/W-TWMSMITH

----- 035330

R 090414Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PINS, SHUM, DM

SUBJECT: CONFISCATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES' PROPERTY IN  
BENIN

REF: COTONOU 746

1. IN RESPONSE PARA 5 REFTTEL, IT APPEARS THAT JEHOVAH'S  
WITNESSES' PROPERTY CONFISCATED BY BENIN GOVERNMENT ON  
APRIL 30 MAY BE COVERED BY USG EXPROPRIATION STATUTES, IN  
VIEW OF THE MORE THAN 50 PERCENT AMERICAN OWNERSHIP OF  
THE PROPERTY. IF ASKED, YOU SHOULD MAKE THIS CLEAR TO  
GPRB. HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT IS USG POLICY TO ENCOURAGE  
EXPROPRIATED PROPERTY OWNERS TO EXPLORE ALL REASONABLE  
MEANS OF REDRESS FROM EXPROPRIATING GOVERNMENTS BEFORE  
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ANY FORMAL ACTION IS TAKEN BY USG AND BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT

BEEN ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE, YOU SHOULD NOT RAISE MATTER  
WITH GPRB AT THIS TIME.

2. FYI: USG HAS DETERMINED THAT TAKINGS OF PROPERTY OF  
AMERICAN RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN PAKISTAN AND  
AFGHANISTAN WERE EXPROPRIATIONS UNDER THE TERMS OF SECTION  
502 (B) (4) OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974. THEREFORE, SOME  
PRECEDENT MAY EXIST FOR TREATING THIS CASE IN A SIMILAR  
FASHION. END FYI. KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHUM, DM  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 MAY 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE113624  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** GADIES:DFF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760574/aaaacpl.tel  
**Line Count:** 70  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 COTONOU 746  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

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EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONFISCATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES' PROPERTY IN BENIN  
**TAGS:** PINS  
**To:** COTONOU ACCRA OTTAWA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006